

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: MALAYSIA/CHINA RELATIONS

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST MAY 5, TITLED "A
DISTURBING CHINESE GESTURE":
QUOTE

1. PEKING'S GESTURE A FEW DAYS AGO GIVING, AT THE VERY LEAST, COMFORT
TO COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN MALAYSIA MUST SURELY HAVE A DISTURBING EFFECT

ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CHINA - IN PARTICULAR ON KUALA LUMPUR WHICH HAS
ALREADY DONE SO.

2. BY RELAYING AND THEREBY GIVING WIDER PUBLICITY TO A POLICY
STATEMENT OF THE MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MCP) ON "ARMED
STRUGGLE", THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) APPEARS TO AT
LEAST CONDONE TERRORISM AGAINST A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND
SUBVERSION TO OVERTHROW IT BY FORCE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
MALAYSIA AND CHINA, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT PEKING WOULD IN FUTURE
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EXERCISE SOME RESTRAINT AND DISCRETION IN DISSEMINATING MCP

PROPAGANDA, PARTICULARLY SUBVERSIVE MATERIAL.

4. THE JOINT PEKING-KUALA LUMPUR COMMUNIQUE ON ESTABLISHING MUTUAL RELATIONS AGREED THAT "THE SOCIAL SYSTEM OF A COUNTRY SHOULD ONLY BE CHOSEN AND DECIDED BY ITS OWN PEOPLE" BUT DID NO MENTION THE MEANS BY WHICH THE CHOICE SHOULD BE MADE OR THE DECISION TAKEN.

5. THE MCP POLICY STATEMENT REFERRED TO AN MCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION, MARKING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTY.

6. THIS SAID THAT "WE HOLD THAT THE VICTORY OF OUR COUNTRY'S REVOLUTION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PATH OF SO-CALLED 'PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY' OR THE PATH OF ARMED UPRISING IN THE CITIES."

7. IT STRESSED THAT THE VICTORY " CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PATH OF SURROUNDING THE CITIES FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE AND SEIZING POLITICAL POWER THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE."

8. IN SHORT, CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG'S DOCTRINE THAT "POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF THE BARREL OF THE GUN," IS TO TAKE PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER STRATEGIES.

9. THE RELAYING OF THE MCP STATEMENT BY CHINA'S OFFICIAL MEDIA APPEARS TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN PEKING AND KUALA LUMPUR.

10. THIS SAID INTER ALIA THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS "CONSIDER ALL FOREIGN AGGRESSION, INTERFERENCE, CONTROL AND SUBVERSION TO BE IMPERMISSIBLE."

11. DOUBLY DISTURBING TO MALAYSIA MUST BE THE ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS WHICH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY SENT TO THE MCP.

12. THIS DESCRIBED THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION AS FAVOURING THE MALAYAN STRUGGLE, ADDING THAT "WE BELIEVE THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED STRUGGLE OF THE MALAYAN PEOPLE WILL CERTAINLY TRIUMPH."

13. OF COURSE, THIS IS IN LINE WITH CHINA'S "INTERNATIONALIST DUTY" BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THIS DUTY BEING OTHER THAN MORAL SUPPORT
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IN THE CASE OF THE MALAYSIAN INSURGENTS.

14. THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVE COULD BE TO INCREASE CHINA'S INFLUENCE WITH THE MPC TO AVOID IT SWINGING INTO THE ORBIT OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE CONFUSION ATTENDING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA. UNQUOTE.
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